

Christina N. Goodrich (SBN 261722)
christina.goodrich@klgates.com
Cassidy T. Young (SBN 342891)
cassidy.young@klgates.com
K&L Gates LLP
10100 Santa Monica Boulevard
Eighth Floor
Los Angeles, California 90067
Telephone: +1 310 552 5000
Facsimile: +1 310 552 5001

[Additional counsel on signature page]

Attorneys for Plaintiff Entropic Communications, LLC

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

ENTROPIC COMMUNICATIONS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

V.

COX COMMUNICATIONS, INC., *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:23-cv-01049-JWH-KES
(Lead Case)

Case No.: 2:23-cv-01050-JWH-KES
(Related Case)

[Assigned to the Honorable John W. Holcomb]

**PLAINTIFF ENTROPIC
COMMUNICATIONS, LLC'S
NOTICE OF MOTION AND
MOTION FOR LEAVE TO
SUPPLEMENT COMPLAINT;
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS
AND AUTHORITIES IN
SUPPORT THEREOF;
DECLARATION OF CASSIDY
YOUNG IN SUPPORT
THEREOF; [PROPOSED]
ORDER**

Hearing Date: January 5, 2024
Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m.
Courtroom: 9D (Santa Ana)

ENTROPIC COMMUNICATIONS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

V.

COMCAST CORPORATION, *et al.*

Defendants.

1 **TO DEFENDANTS AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:**

2 **PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT** on January 5, 2024, or as soon thereafter
3 as this matter may be heard, in Courtroom 9D of the United States District Court for
4 the Central District of California, located at 411 W. 4th Street, Santa Ana, California
5 92701, Plaintiff Entropic Communications, LLC (“Entropic”) will, and hereby does,
6 move the Court for leave to supplement its complaint against Defendants Comcast
7 Corporation, Comcast Cable Communications, LLC, and Comcast Cable
8 Communications Management, LLC (collectively, “Comcast”). This Motion is made
9 pursuant to Rule 15(d) of the FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, on the grounds
10 that good cause exists to grant Entropic leave to supplement to rely on conduct that
11 occurred after the filing of the complaints in this action to further support its
12 allegations of willful infringement of the asserted patents. Comcast cannot establish
13 that any of the *Foman* factors justify denial of the Motion, as detailed further in the
14 accompanying memorandum of points and authorities.

15 Comcast previously moved to dismissed Entropic’s First Amended Complaint
16 in its entirety under Rule 12(b)(1) and as to willful infringement under Rule 12(b)(6).
17 In opposition, Entropic requested, *inter alia*, leave to file a supplemental pleading
18 based on conduct that occurred after the filing of the complaints. In its Order granting
19 Comcast’s motion with leave to amend, the Court did not specifically grant or deny
20 the request to supplement. Thus, Entropic is filing this motion out of an abundance
21 of caution to the extent that supplementation did not fall within the scope of the
22 Order. Entropic has attached to the concurrently-filed supporting declaration a
23 separate proposed supplemental pleading containing allegations regarding conduct
24 that occurred after the filing of the complaints in this action.

25 This Motion is made following a conference of counsel pursuant to Local Rule
26 7-3 that took place on December 1, 2023. The Parties discussed the substance and
27 potential resolution of the filed Motion via telephone.

The Motion is based on this Notice, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities attached hereto, the Declaration of Cassidy Young, the proposed supplemental pleading, the initial, First Amended, and Second Amended Complaints, the complete Court files and records in this action, and all matters that may be properly considered by the Court at the hearing on this Motion.

Dated: December 8, 2023

K&L GATES LLP

By: /s/ Christina N. Goodrich
Christina Goodrich (SBN 261722)
Cassidy T. Young (SBN 342891)
K&L Gates, LLP
10100 Santa Monica Boulevard,
8th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Telephone: (310) 552-5000
Fax: (310) 552-5001
christina.goodrich@klgates.com
cassidy.young@klgates.com

James A. Shimota (*pro hac vice*)
George C. Summerfield (*pro hac vice*)
Jason A. Engel (*pro hac vice*)
Samuel P. Richey (SBN 278444)
Katherine L. Allor (*pro hac vice*)
70 W. Madison Street, Ste 3300
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Telephone: (312) 807-4299
Fax: (312) 827-8000
jim.shimota@klgates.com
george.summerfield@klgates.com
jason.engel@klgates.com
samuel.richey@klgates.com
katy.allor@klgates.com

Darlene F. Ghavimi (*pro hac vice*)
2801 Via Fortuna, Ste 650
Austin, Texas 78746
Telephone: (512) 482-6859
Fax: (512) 482-6859

darlene.ghavimi@klgates.com

Peter E. Soskin
4 Embarcadero Center, Ste 1200
San Francisco, CA 94111
Telephone: (415) 882-8220
peter.soskin@klgates.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff, Entropic Communications, LLC

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

3 Plaintiff Entropic Communications, LLC (“Entropic”) seeks leave to
4 supplement its complaint against Defendants Comcast Corporation, Comcast Cable
5 Communications, LLC, and Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC
6 (collectively, “Comcast”). Comcast previously moved to dismiss Entropic’s First
7 Amended Complaint in its entirety under Rule 12(b)(1) and as to only willful
8 infringement under Rule 12(b)(6). In opposition, Entropic requested, *inter alia*, leave
9 to file a supplemental pleading based on conduct that occurred after the filing of the
10 complaints. *See* 2:23-cv-1050, DE 88-1 at 17:7–18:22. In its Order granting
11 Comcast’s motion as to willful infringement under Rule 12(b)(6) with leave to
12 amend, the Court did not specifically grant or deny the request to supplement. *See*
13 DE 121 at 2, 11, 12. Thus, Entropic is filing this motion out of an abundance of
14 caution to the extent that supplementation did not fall within the scope of the Order.

15 Good cause exists to grant Entropic leave to supplement its complaint because:
16 (1) the Court has already granted Entropic leave to amend, and Entropic is complying
17 with the deadline imposed by that Order; (2) Entropic is supplementing in furtherance
18 of making further allegations to support willful infringement, as to which this Court
19 has already granted Entropic leave to amend; (3) Comcast will not be unduly
20 prejudiced because the burden on Comcast would be the same as if Entropic simply
21 amended its complaint as instructed by the Court; and (4) supplementation would not
22 be futile because Entropic seeks to add factual allegations to further support its claim
23 that Comcast has willfully infringed the Patents-in-Suit.

24 || Thus, Entropic respectfully requests the Court grant its Motion.

25 | II. **FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

26 Entropic filed its original complaint against Comcast on February 10, 2023,
27 asserting infringement of U.S. Patent Nos. 8,223,775 (the “775 Patent”), 8,284,690
28 (the “690 Patent”), 8,792,008 (the “008 Patent”), 9,210,362 (the “362 Patent”),

1 9,825,826 (the “‘826 Patent”), 10,135,682 (the “‘682 Patent”), 11,381,866 (the “‘866
 2 Patent”), and 11,399,206 (the “‘206 Patent”) (collectively, the “Patents-in-Suit”). *See*
 3 2:23-cv-1050 (the “1050 Case”), DE 1. Comcast responded by filing motions to
 4 dismiss the complaint pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) and (6).
 5 1050 DE 51, 48.

6 On June 5, 2023, Entropic filed a first amended complaint as a matter of right,
 7 consistent with Rule 15(a)(1)(B). *See* 1050 DE 63. Comcast again responded by
 8 filing a motion to dismiss. *See* 1050 DE 76. Specifically, Comcast moved to dismiss
 9 this case under Rule 12(b)(1) for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. *Id.* Comcast
 10 moved under Rule 12(b)(6) solely to dismiss Entropic’s allegations of willful
 11 infringement. *Id.* Comcast did not move to dismiss Entropic’s claims for non-willful
 12 patent infringement for failure to state a claim under Rule 12(b)(6). *Id.* In its Motion,
 13 Comcast argued that a Vendor Support Agreement (“VSA”) that Comcast Cable
 14 Communications LLC entered into with a *third party*—MaxLinear Inc.—contained
 15 a covenant not to sue that deprived this Court of subject matter jurisdiction over
 16 Entropic’s claims against Comcast. *Id.* at 2:8–17. Comcast also argued that Entropic
 17 failed to plausibly allege that Comcast willfully infringed Entropic’s patents and,
 18 thus, its claims for willful infringement should be dismissed for failure to state a
 19 claim. *Id.* at 2:18–24. Again, Comcast did not move to dismiss Entropic’s claims for
 20 non-willful infringement under Rule 12(b)(6).

21 In Opposition, Entropic made several arguments, including that neither the
 22 VSA nor its alleged covenant not to sue applied to Entropic, who was neither party
 23 to, nor an assignee of, the VSA. *See* 1050 DE 88-1 at 16:10–17:6. Entropic also
 24 argued that, to the extent the Court was inclined to grant any aspect of Comcast’s
 25 motion, it should be given leave to file a supplemental pleading to include allegations
 26 to support its claims based on conduct that occurred after it filed the complaints. *See*
 27 *id.* at 17, 18. At the hearing on the Motion, Entropic raised binding authority that is
 28 dispositive of Comcast’s Motion because under that authority Comcast’s argument

1 is a defense and not a basis for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. Young Decl. Ex.
2 B at 74:16–75:24. The parties then submitted supplemental briefing on that authority
3 and related arguments.¹ *See* 1050 DE 115, 118.

4 On November 20, 2023, the Court granted Comcast’s Motion to Dismiss as to
5 willful infringement under Rule 12(b)(6). *See* DE 121. The Court granted Entropic
6 leave to amend. *See id.* at 2, 12. The Court’s Order directed Entropic to file its second
7 amended complaint by December 8, 2023. *Id.* at 12.

8 Entropic’s Second Amended Complaint includes factual allegations in further
9 support of its assertion of willful infringement. Because the Order is unclear as to
10 whether the Court’s grant of leave to amend also included leave to supplement, and
11 because Entropic’s Second Amended Complaint includes pre- and post-filing
12 conduct and notes the concurrent filing of this Motion, Entropic moves, in an
13 abundance of caution, to obtain leave to supplement to the extent it was not
14 contemplated by the grant of leave to amend in the Order. Entropic has given
15 Comcast plenty of notice of its intent to include post-filing conduct in its Second
16 Amended Complaint, including during the hearings before the Special Master on
17 November 10, 2023, and December 1, 2023. Young Decl., Ex. C at 13:13–24; Ex. D
18 at 22:5–12 (“[I]t will come as no surprise because I raised this during the prior
19 discovery dispute hear that one of the grounds for willfulness, which is on a patent-
20 by-patent basis, is the original filing of the complaint which relevant case law says is
21 sufficient to support allegations of willfulness.”). The post-filing conduct is also
22 included in the proposed supplemental pleading attached to the concurrently-filed
23 Young Declaration. *See* Young Decl. Ex. A.

24 Entropic’s allegations based on post-filing conduct include the specific notice,
25 on a patent-by-patent basis, that Comcast received of its infringement in the original
26 Complaint and accompanying exhibits (including detailed charts), the First Amended

27
28 ¹ The case between Entropic and Comcast was subsequently consolidated with
Entropic Communications, LLC v. Cox Communications, Inc., 2:23-cv-1049. *See* DE
93.

1 Complaint and accompanying exhibits (including detailed charts), and Entropic's
2 infringement contentions. *Id.* The SAC and supplemental pleading allege that despite
3 this notice and knowledge of its infringement, Comcast continued to infringe and
4 such infringement has continued up through the present. *See* 1049 DE 128; Young
5 Decl. Ex. A at ¶ 1, 19–20. The SAC and supplemental pleading further allege that
6 Comcast sought indemnification from its third-party vendors, confirming Comcast's
7 awareness of the infringement. *See* 1049 DE 128; Young Decl. Ex. A. at ¶ 7–8. The
8 SAC and supplemental pleading also make the factual allegation that MaxLinear
9 terminated the VSA by way of letter, which occurred after the filing of the original
10 Complaint, and that the VSA is no longer in effect. *See* 1049 DE 128; Young Decl.
11 Ex. A. at ¶ 3, 25–27. Entropic also includes allegations about counterclaims filed by
12 MaxLinear against Comcast for misappropriation of trade secrets, which pre-date the
13 filing of this action, which establish that a condition precedent to the covenant's
14 existence was not met and, even if it were, Comcast breached the VSA before
15 MaxLinear's termination of that agreement. *See* 1049 DE 128; Young Decl. Ex. A.
16 at ¶ 21–24.

17 **III. LEGAL STANDARD**

18 “Supplemental pleadings are governed by Rule 15(d).” *Lyon v. U.S. Immigr.*
19 & *Customs Enf't*, 308 F.R.D. 203, 214 (N.D. Cal. 2015). The plain text of the rule
20 allows a court to “permit a party to serve a supplemental pleading setting out any
21 transaction, occurrence, or event that happened after the date of the pleading to be
22 supplemented.” FED. R. CIV. P. 15(d). The rule further clarifies that “[t]he court may
23 permit supplementation even though the original pleading is defective in stating a
24 claim or defense.” *Id.*

25 “The legal standard for granting or denying a motion to supplement under Rule
26 15(d) is the same as for amending one under 15(a).” *Paralyzed Veterans of Am. v.*
27 *McPherson*, No. 06-cv-4670-SBA, 2008 WL 4183981, at *26 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 9,
28 2008). Rule 15(a) of the FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE instructs that “leave

1 shall be freely granted when justice so requires.” “Supplementation is generally
2 favored because it promotes judicial economy and convenience.” *Lyon*, 308 F.R.D.
3 at 214 (citing *Keith v. Volpe*, 858 F.2d 467, 473 (9th Cir. 1988)).

4 In determining whether to grant a motion for leave to amend (and thus also a
5 motion to supplement), courts consider the following factors: (1) whether the movant
6 unduly delayed in bringing the motion; (2) evidence of bad faith or dilatory motive
7 on the part of the movant; (3) the movant’s repeated failure to cure deficiencies by
8 previous amendments; (4) prejudice to the opposing party; and (5) futility of
9 amendment. *Lyon*, 308 F.R.D. at 214.

10 While a court should consider each of the five factors when conducting its
11 analysis, the crucial factor is the resulting prejudice to the opposing party. *Howey v.*
12 *Radio Corp. of Am.*, 481 F.2d 1187, 1190 (9th Cir. 1973). “Absent prejudice, or a
13 strong showing of any of the remaining . . . factors, there exists a presumption under
14 Rule 15(a) in favor of granting leave to amend.” *Eminence Cap., LLC v. Aspeon, Inc.*,
15 316 F.3d 1048, 1052 (9th Cir. 2003) (emphasis omitted); *see also Griggs v. Pace Am.*
16 *Grp., Inc.*, 170 F.3d 877, 880 (9th Cir. 1999) (stating that when a court conducts a
17 Rule 15(a) analysis, generally all inferences should be drawn in favor of granting the
18 motion). The same principle applies in the context of Rule 15(d)—leave should be
19 “freely given” in the absence of an apparent reason to preclude a party from
20 supplementing its pleading. *Foman v. Davis*, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962).

21 A supplemental pleading under Rule 15(d)—as opposed to an amended
22 pleading under Rule 15(a)—is required for “any transaction, occurrence, or event that
23 happened after the date of the pleading to be supplemented.” FED. R. CIV. P. 15(d).
24 In the context of supplementing an amended complaint, the Ninth Circuit and this
25 Court have clarified that “the pleading to be supplemented” actually refers to the
26 original complaint. *See Sols. for Utils. Inc. v. Cal. Pub. Utils. Comm’n*, 2:11-cv-4975-
27 JWH-JCG, 2022 WL 3575307, at *2 (C.D. Cal. July 5, 2022) (“**that** pleading refers
28 to the original complaint”); *see also Keith v. Volpe*, 858 F.2d 467, 471 (9th Cir. 1988)

1 (explaining that Rule 15(d) “is designed to permit expansion of the scope of existing
2 litigation to include events that occur after the filing of the *original* complaint)
3 (emphasis added). Therefore, the critical determination is whether the alleged
4 incidents or events occurred after the case was filed. *See Sols. for Utils.*, 2022 WL
5 3575307 at *2 (“The issue is whether alleged incidents and events . . . occurred before
6 the case was filed or thereafter. If the latter, then those facts must be alleged in a
7 supplemental complaint under Rule 15(d)”).

8 The *Solutions for Utilities* case is particularly instructive. In that case, plaintiff
9 filed a seventh amended complaint and took the position that a supplemental pleading
10 would be required only for events that transpired after the date of the seventh
11 amended complaint, rather than the date of the initial complaint. *See id.* at *1. This
12 Court rejected that argument, noting that Rule 15(d) would be superfluous if parties
13 could simply amend their pleadings indefinitely under Rule 15(a) to add facts and
14 claims arising after the litigation has commenced. *Id.* at *3. In another example,
15 *Sywula v. Teleport Mobility, Inc.*, the Court had previously dismissed plaintiff’s first
16 amended complaint for lack of standing. 652 F.Supp.3d 1195, 1205 (S.D. Cal. 2023).
17 Just as in this case, the dismissal order granted plaintiff leave to amend (*id.*), and
18 similarly, plaintiff’s second amended complaint added factual allegations occurring
19 during the pendency of the litigation. *Id.* at *1213. The Court ruled that these
20 allegations required leave under Rule 15(d) “because they detail events that occurred
21 *after* [plaintiff] instituted this action.” *Id.*

22 Applying that reasoning to the case at hand (and assuming that leave to
23 supplement was not already granted in the Court’s Order granting leave to amend),
24 the allegations of post-filing conduct in Entropic’s Second Amended Complaint
25 would be governed by Rule 15(d) because they relate to events occurring after the
26 filing of this lawsuit. *See also Lyon*, 308 F.R.D. at 214 (“New claims, new parties,
27 and allegations regarding events that occurred after the original complaint was filed
28 are all properly permitted under Rule 15(d).”) (citing *Griffin v. Cnty. Sch. Bd. of*

1 *Prince Edward Cnty.*, 377 U.S. 218, 226 (1964); *see also Cabrera v. City of*
2 *Huntington Park*, 159 F.3d 374, 382 (9th Cir. 1998) (“Rule 15(d) permits the filing
3 of a supplemental pleading which introduces a cause of action not alleged in the
4 original complaint and not in existence when the original complaint was filed”).

5 **IV. ARGUMENT**

6 Assuming it has not already done so by virtue of its grant of leave to amend in
7 its Order, the Court should grant Entropic leave to file a supplemental pleading based
8 on post-suit conduct. Either these allegations are amendments under Rule 15(a) and
9 are encompassed by the Court’s Order, or they are supplemental under Rule 15(d)
10 and are encompassed by the instant Motion. There is no alternative, as that would
11 allow a defendant to escape liability for conduct occurring after the filing of an initial
12 complaint.

13 To the extent the Court concludes that these allegations are amendments under
14 Rule 15(a), then Entropic already has leave to include them as a result of the Court’s
15 November 20 Order granting leave to amend. *See* DE 121. In that case, Entropic asks
16 the Court to confirm that Entropic’s “leave to amend” means Entropic may include
17 the post-suit allegations in its Second Amended Complaint.

18 Alternatively, to the extent the Court concludes that these allegations are
19 supplemental under Rule 15(d), good cause exists for the Court to grant Entropic
20 leave to supplement, especially in view of this Court already having granted Entropic
21 leave to amend.

22 **A. Good cause exists to allow Entropic to Supplement.**

23 **1. There has been no undue delay or bad faith on the part of**
24 **Entropic.**

25 Entropic’s supplemental pleading based on post-suit conduct is not the result
26 of undue delay or bad faith. Indeed, Entropic is going out of its way to ensure that it
27 obtains specific leave to include allegations based on post-suit conduct, to the extent
28 it is not already covered by the Order granting leave to amend. Entropic requested

1 this same leave months ago, in its Opposition to Comcast’s Motion to Dismiss. *See*
2 1050 Case, DE 88-1 at 17:7–18:22. Thus, Comcast can hardly claim undue delay.
3 Moreover, since that time, Entropic has repeatedly notified Comcast of its intent to
4 rely on post-filing conduct (including the filing of the initial Complaint and
5 Comcast’s continued infringement despite such knowledge) to support its allegations
6 of willful infringement. *See* Young Decl. Ex. C at 13:13–24.

7 Entropic did not delay in seeking leave to supplement its complaint. The Court
8 granted Comcast’s motion to dismiss on November 20 and gave Entropic 18 days to
9 file an amended complaint. *See* DE 121 at 12. This 18-day period included the
10 Thanksgiving holiday. Entropic is filing this motion to supplement consistent with
11 that deadline and even notified Comcast of its intent to do so well in advance of its
12 filing. *See* Young Decl. Ex. E (email from Peter Soskin to Comcast counsel on Nov.
13 27, 2023).

14 Nor has Entropic acted in bad faith by moving to supplement. The Court
15 granted Entropic leave to amend precisely so that Entropic could add allegations to
16 support willful infringement. That is exactly what Entropic seeks to accomplish
17 through supplementation, by showing that Comcast has willfully infringed and/or
18 that the covenant-not-to-sue is no longer in effect.

19 Even if there has been some undue delay on the part of Entropic (which there
20 has not), undue delay alone “is insufficient to justify denying a motion to amend.”
21 *Bowles v. Reade*, 198 F.3d 752, 758 (9th Cir. 1999). Regardless, Entropic has
22 exercised diligence in seeking leave to supplement. Therefore, this factor weighs in
23 favor of granting leave.

24 **2. Entropic has not failed to cure deficiencies through “repeated
25 failure of previous amendments” or supplements.**

26 Entropic has amended its complaint against Comcast only once as a matter of
27 right. Moreover, the Court has granted a motion to dismiss only once and it was
28 granted on narrow grounds—Rule 12(b)(6) motion directed to willful infringement.

1 Entropic is seeking to supplement at the same time as the amendment following the
2 Court’s Order granting that motion. The Court has never expressly denied Entropic’s
3 request for leave to supplement, so there are no repeated failures to cure deficiencies
4 through supplementation. Thus, this factor weighs in favor of granting leave to
5 supplement.

6 **3. Comcast would not be unduly prejudiced by allowing
7 supplementation.**

8 “The party opposing amendment bears the burden of showing prejudice.”
9 *DCD Programs, Ltd. v. Leighton*, 833 F.2d 183, 187 (9th Cir. 1987). Comcast cannot
10 meet that burden here.

11 The critical fact here is that the Court has already granted Entropic leave to
12 amend, as well as imposed a specific deadline for Entropic to do so, and the Second
13 Amended Complaint and proposed supplemental pleading all relate to matters in the
14 original and First Amended Complaint—namely, willfulness. Comcast would need
15 to show some additional prejudice associated with supplementation, but there is none.
16 Indeed, Entropic has included the post-filing allegations in the Second Amended
17 Complaint filed on December 8 in order to allow Comcast ample time to analyze the
18 allegations. Moreover, Comcast is of course aware of the post-suit allegations as they
19 involve Comcast’s own conduct. Entropic has also repeatedly put Comcast on notice
20 of its intent to rely on this post-filing conduct during discovery hearings before the
21 Special Master. *See* Young Decl. Ex. C at 13:13–24; *see also* *Sywula v. Teleport*
22 *Mobility, Inc.*, No. 21-cv-1450-BAS-AGS, 2023 WL 362504, at *10–11 (S.D. Cal.
23 Jan. 23, 2023) (allowing supplementation under Rule 15(d) where the Court had
24 already granted leave to amend and “the newly alleged material unquestionably
25 relates to the matters set forth in the original complaint”).

26 Add to that the fact that it is still early in the case, with the claim construction
27 hearing set for July 2024 (*see* DE 75), and there is simply no suggestion that Comcast
28 would be unduly prejudiced by the supplementation. *See Glaukos Corp. v. Ivantis*,

1 *Inc.*, 2019 WL 8348322, at *5 (C.D. Cal. May 20, 2019) (holding lack of prejudice
2 where defendant received proposed amended contentions 75 days before the deadline
3 for the joint claim construction chart and more than six months prior to fact discovery
4 cutoff, and collecting cases where amendment was permitted much later); *Aten Int'l*
5 *Co., Ltd v. Emine Tech. Co.*, 2010 WL 1462110, at *4 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 12, 2010)
6 (holding lack of prejudice where seven months remained until the discovery cut-off).

7 In sum, the early stage of this litigation, along with this Court's grant of leave
8 to amend, tip this factor far in favor of permitting the supplemental pleading.

9 **4. Supplementation would not be futile.**

10 “Courts ordinarily do not consider the validity of a proposed amended pleading
11 in deciding whether to grant leave to amend and defer consideration of challenges to
12 the merits of a proposed amendment until after leave to amend is granted and the
13 amended pleadings are filed.” *Tas Energy, Inc. v. San Diego Gas & Elec. Co.*, 2013
14 WL 4500880, at *2 (S.D. Cal. Aug. 21, 2013) (citing *Netbula, LLC v. Distinct Corp.*,
15 212 F.R.D. 534, 539 (N.D. Cal. 2003)). Regardless, Entropic’s proposed
16 supplementation would not be futile.

17 The post-filing allegations point to specific events that without doubt put
18 Comcast on notice of the patents at issue in this case, the assertion that it was
19 infringing those patents, and even specific claims and infringement contentions. *See*
20 Young Decl. Ex. A. The Second Amended Complaint and supplemental pleading
21 also allege that, despite such knowledge, Comcast continued to infringe, which
22 establishes willfulness. *See* 1049 DE 128; Young Decl. Ex. A. at ¶ 1, 19–20. This
23 is more than sufficient to support allegations of willful infringement at the pleading
24 stage. *See, e.g., MyMedicalRecords, Inc. v. Jardogs, LLC*, 1 F. Supp. 3d 1020, 1026
25 (C.D. Cal. 2014) (holding that plaintiff could base willful infringement on original
26 complaint because “if a plaintiff like MMR is able to establish the defendant’s
27 knowledge of the alleged infringement based on a prior, though superseded,
28

1 complaint, the defendant should not be able to escape liability for conduct occurring
2 after the plaintiff files its complaint”).

3 Although the Federal Circuit has not provided explicit guidance on this issue,
4 the majority rule among District Courts is that a defendant’s post-suit knowledge of
5 the patents (for purposes of willful infringement) can be based solely on the notice
6 provided by service of the original complaint. *See Traxcell Techs. LLC v. Google*
7 *LLC*, No. 22-cv-4807-JSC, 2022 WL 17072015, at *6, 8 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 17, 2022)
8 (adopting majority rule and allowing plaintiff to plead post-suit willful inducement
9 infringement based on notice provided by the original complaint); *see also Fluidigm*
10 *Corp. v. Ionpath, Inc.*, No. 19-cv-5639-WHA, 2020 WL 1433178, at *3 (N.D. Cal.
11 Mar. 24, 2020) (amended complaint sufficiently pleaded post-suit willfulness where
12 it alleged that the original complaint notified defendant of the infringement, and that
13 the defendant continues to infringe); *Billjco, LLC v. Apple Inc.*, 583 F. 3d 769, 778
14 (W.D. Tex. 2022) (“Serving a complaint will, in most circumstances, notify the
15 defendant of the asserted patent and the accused conduct. So long as the complaint
16 also adequately alleges that the defendant is continuing its purportedly infringing
17 conduct, it will satisfy all three *Parity* elements and sufficiently plead a post-
18 filing/post-suit willful infringement claim”); *Longhorn Vaccines & Diagnostics, LLC*
19 *v. Spectrum Sols. LLC*, 2021 WL 4324508, at *9-10 & nn. 95, 96 (D. Utah Sept. 23,
20 2021) (recognizing split on this issue and finding that knowledge of patents gained
21 from an original complaint is sufficient to establish post-filing indirect and willful
22 infringement claims); *Torchlight Techs. LLC v. Daimler AG*, No. 22-cv-751-GBW,
23 DE 95, at 4–5 (D. Del. 2023 Feb. 2, 2023) (noting disagreement even within the
24 District of Delaware, but ultimately granting leave to amend “to aver that Torchlight
25 is making a claim for Defendants’ willful ongoing infringement predicated on the
26 notice of infringement provided in the Original Complaint and the FAC”).²

27
28 ² Although there are cases to the contrary, as noted in *Longhorn* and *Torchlight*, the
majority rule is the better approach because “[h]olding otherwise would again give a
defendant free rein to willfully infringe a patent of which it is now blatantly aware

a. Entropic's Willfulness Allegations and VSA Termination Allegations Enable Entropic to Address Comcast's Infringement.

4 The Court’s November 20 Order held that any claim for willful infringement
5 would fall under an exemption to the VSA’s covenant-not-to-sue, and the Court
6 granted Entropic leave to amend under Rule 12(b)(6) so that Entropic could add
7 factual allegations relating to willfulness. That is precisely what Entropic seeks to
8 do; it just happens that certain allegations post-date the filing of the complaint. *See*
9 *e.g. Apple Inc. v. Samsung Elecs. Co., Ltd.*, 258 F. Sup. 3d 1013, 1027 (N.D. Cal.
10 2017) (post-filing conduct alone can serve as the basis for a finding of willfulness);
11 *see also Fluidigm Corp.*, 2020 WL 1433178 at *3 (allowing plaintiff to plead post-
12 suit willfulness based on defendant continuing to infringe after being served with the
13 original complaint).

14 Entropic further seeks to add allegations which would establish that the VSA
15 was subsequently terminated and that the covenant-not-to-sue is no longer in effect.
16 With the VSA no longer in effect, Entropic's ability to seek redress for Comcast's
17 infringement is not limited to willful infringement allegations.

b. Supplementation Can Cure Any Jurisdictional Defects in Entropic's Complaint.

20 This Court's Order did not appear to grant Comcast' Rule 12(b)(1) Motion.
21 Instead, it granted Comcast's Rule 12(b)(6) Motion as to only willful infringement.
22 That being said, to the extent Comcast makes some new argument about jurisdiction,

simply because a plaintiff chose not to move for a preliminary injunction.” *MyMedicalRecords*, 1 F. Supp. 3d at 1026. “Such a result would eviscerate the whole basis behind enhanced damages for willful infringement.” *Id.* Moreover, the alternative for a plaintiff would be to dismiss their own case and then refile the next day to allege willfulness based on the previous day’s complaint. Such an outcome would be inefficient and incompatible with the face and purpose of Rule 15(d). See generally *Foman v. Davis*, 371 U.S. 178, 181–82 (1962) (“The Federal Rules reject the approach that pleading is a game of skill in which one misstep by counsel may be decisive to the outcome and accept the principle that the purpose of pleading is to facilitate a proper decision on the merits”).

1 a supplemental complaint can be used to correct jurisdictional defects that existed at
2 the time of the original complaint. *See Northstar Fin. Advisors Inc. v. Schwab Invs.*,
3 779 F.3d 1036, 1043–48 (9th Cir. 2015) (trial court did not abuse discretion in
4 allowing plaintiff to cure lack-of-standing by filing a supplemental pleading). The
5 Court in *Northstar* observed that Rule 15(d) “circumvents ‘the needless formality
6 and expense of instituting a new action when events occurring after the original filing
7 indicated a right to relief.’” *Id.* at 1044 (quoting Wright, Miller, & Kane, *Federal
Practice and Procedure: Civil* 3d § 1505, pg. 273).

9 Likewise, *Sywula v. Teleport Mobility, Inc.* is particularly instructive. In that
10 case, the court had previously dismissed plaintiff’s first amended complaint for lack
11 of standing. 2023 WL 362504 at *4. The dismissal order granted plaintiff leave to
12 amend, but plaintiff went further by supplementing the new complaint with post-suit
13 allegations. *Id.* at *4, 10. Not only did the Court retroactively grant plaintiff leave to
14 supplement under Rule 15(d) (*id.* at *11), the Court concluded that the allegations in
15 the new complaint were sufficient to confer Article III standing. *See id.* at *19; *see also* *26
16 (denying motion to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(1)). To the extent there
17 remains some open question as to jurisdiction, the Court should grant leave to
18 supplement like the court did in *Sywula*.

19 **V. CONCLUSION**

20 For the foregoing reasons, this Court should grant Entropic leave to file a
21 supplementation pleading or confirm that its prior Order granted such relief such that
22 the post-filing conduct alleged in the Second Amended Complaint is appropriate.
23

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K&L GATES LLP

25 By: /s/ Christina Goodrich
26 Christina Goodrich (SBN 261722)
27 Cassidy T. Young (SBN 342891)
28 K&L Gates, LLP
10100 Santa Monica Boulevard,

8th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Telephone: (310) 552-5000
Fax: (310) 552-5001
christina.goodrich@klgates.com
cassidy.young@klgates.com

James A. Shimota (*pro hac vice*)
George C. Summerfield (*pro hac vice*)
Samuel P. Richey (SBN 278444)
Katherine L. Allor (*pro hac vice*)
70 W. Madison Street, Ste 3300
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Telephone: (312) 807-4299
Fax: (312) 827-8000
jim.shimota@klgates.com
george.summerfield@klgates.com
samuel.richey@klgates.com
katy.allor@klgates.com

Darlene F. Ghavimi (*pro hac vice*)
2801 Via Fortuna, Ste 650
Austin, Texas 78746
Telephone: (512) 482-6859
Fax: (512) 482-6859
darlene.ghavimi@klgates.com

Peter E. Soskin
4 Embarcadero Center, Ste 1200
San Francisco, CA 94111
Telephone: (415) 882-8220
peter.soskin@klgates.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff, Entropic Communications, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

The undersigned, counsel of record for Plaintiff Entropic Communications, LCC, certifies that this brief contains 4,378 words, which complies with the word limit of L.R. 11-6.1.

Dated: December 8, 2023

K&L GATES LLP

By: /s/ Christina Goodrich
Christina Goodrich (SBN 261722)
Cassidy T. Young (SBN 342891)
K&L Gates, LLP
10100 Santa Monica Boulevard,
8th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Telephone: (310) 552-5000
Fax: (310) 552-5001
christina.goodrich@klgates.com
cassidy.young@klgates.com

James A. Shimota (*pro hac vice*)
George C. Summerfield (*pro hac vice*)
Samuel P. Richey (SBN 278444)
Katherine L. Allor (*pro hac vice*)
70 W. Madison Street, Ste 3300
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Telephone: (312) 807-4299
Fax: (312) 827-8000
jim.shimota@klgates.com
george.summerfield@klgates.com
samuel.richey@klgates.com
katy.allor@klgates.com

Darlene F. Ghavimi (*pro hac vice*)
2801 Via Fortuna, Ste 650
Austin, Texas 78746
Telephone: (512) 482-6859
Fax: (512) 482-6859
darlene.ghavimi@klgates.com

1 Peter E. Soskin
2 4 Embarcadero Center, Ste 1200
3 San Francisco, CA 94111
4 Telephone: (415) 882-8220
peter.soskin@klgates.com

5 *Attorneys for Plaintiff, Entropic*
6 *Communications, LLC*

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